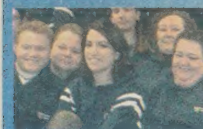




14 Sports
*Knights' season ends
in playoff loss*



7 News
*Senate seeks healthier foods
on campus, solutions to shuttle*

NECC Observer

The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

Fire code forbids art display

*Students, faculty
forced to take down
art in Spurk Building*

BY JASMIN PASTRANA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Faculty members of the Art and Design Department were outraged when they were informed that the student art displays hanging in the third floor corridor of the Spurk Building are considered a fire hazard, and a majority of the artwork had to be taken down.

The art displays are in violation of No. 527 of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations, or the CMRs, which states that in any exit access passageway, assembly area, and corridor, "Paper materials shall not exceed 10 percent of the surface area of any wall."

The exception to the code is "all paper materials displayed in fully enclosed viewing cabinets with glass or polycarbonate viewing panels, and paper materials displayed shall not exceed 50 percent of the surface area of any wall in buildings equipped with automatic sprinklers."

The Technology Center and the Student Center are the only two buildings on the Haverhill campus equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.

Professor Patricia Kidney, chair

of the art and design department, has been continuously working to try to find an alternate solution to the problem.

"I'm so frustrated with this," said Kidney. "We're not asking for much, we just want a place to display student work. The goal of the college is student success and if we don't honor student success, we're worth nothing. How are we supposed to create (it) if we're not allowed to show their work?"

"We just want another solution," said Professor Lindsay McCulloch, visual arts coordinator.

According to Cliff Clarke, superintendent of building and grounds, the problem was first presented last summer when the state building inspector and the fire marshal visited the campus and verbally informed him of the issue.

"I've asked them, 'Please take it down,' a long time ago. They should have been down a while ago," said Clarke of the displays.

The corridor in the Spurk Building is the only display space on campus that is entirely devoted to the Visual Arts students. Faculty members of the art department say the fight for gallery space has been an ongoing battle.

"We've always tried to fight for space. We couldn't even get a place for a student art show," said Kidney.

"Right now, we're just very upset," said McCulloch.

Art faculty members are working on creating a separate art gallery on



Jasmin Pastrana photo

Students were allowed to display their art work for Portfolio Day but had to remove them immediately following the event. Pictured left to right: professor Stacey Thomas-Vickory from Montserrat, student Elizabeth Patterson, and professor Lindsay McCulloch, visual arts coordinator.

campus. The NECC Library is being renovated and has expressed interest in displaying artwork there. Also, The Haverhill Public Library would like to hang some artwork, however, students and faculty believe that the

artwork would be more beneficial if it were on campus.

The art department will apply for funds through the school in order to fireproof the displays.

Patricia Kidney says that the cur-

rent location of the art displays is not ideal.

"It's like an Easter egg hunt," said Kidney, of the obscure location.

See NECC page 9

State dismisses faculty cancer probe

*Staff has concerns
about renovations to
Spurk Building*

BY JONI QUINN
Editor-in-Chief

The State Department of Public Health recently dismissed the NECC faculty probe into cancer rates in the Spurk Building.

Last semester, faculty union members expressed concern with quite a few NECC employees being diagnosed with cancer. According to Professor Stephen Russell, while concern originated in the Spurk Building and was focused on prostate cancer, the concerns expanded to other types of cancer and to employees working in other buildings on the Haverhill campus.

According to Russell, there have

been 41 registered reports of faculty and staff being diagnosed with some form of cancer: 14 breast, nine prostate, three lung, two colon, three brain and 10 unidentified. These employees have worked at NECC over the past 25 years.

According to Russell, Jan Sullivan, director of the Community Assessment Program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, said each type of cancer has different risk factors, therefore counting the number of total occurrences of all cancers is not particularly useful. The reported number of cases at NECC, she believes, is not excessive considering the numbers of people working at NECC over the past 25 years. The types of cancers, moreover, are not

unusual.

Most of the cancers that were reported are common among the population, according to Russell. Another issue is the fact that cancer

People who get cancer often look for a reason why this happened to them. Unfortunately answers are hard to come by and the causes of most cancers are still unknown.

-Prof. Stephen Russell

that someone has now could be from something he or she did or someplace they were 25 years ago. It appears to be a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

"We are not saying that the case

is closed, but the data we have doesn't seem like it's out of line with the number of cancers in the general population," said Russell. "We'll keep an eye out and continue to collect more data. If there is cause for more concern, we will attack the issue."

Russell added, "People have expressed concern that when the Spurk Building begins renovation, they want to be sure that great attention is paid to things surrounding this issue because it is also an old building."

Sullivan explained her office receives quite a few inquiries like this one, according to Russell. The American Cancer Society, she said,

ing this issue because it is also an old building."

Sullivan explained her office receives quite a few inquiries like this one, according to Russell. The American Cancer Society, she said,

reports that over their lifetimes, about one half of all men and one third of all women will be diagnosed with cancer.

"People who get cancer often look for a reason why this has happened to them," said Russell. "Unfortunately answers are often hard to come by and the causes of most cancers are still unknown."

Russell said that if they were to examine the situation further, they would need more data, including the length of employment at NECC and when the cancer was discovered. Another problem Russell said was the fact that so many people have worked at NECC over the past 40 years that it's hard to have accurate information.

Massachusetts maintains a good community-based cancer registry which is helpful in understanding occurrences of cancer in a community, but less helpful when evaluating workplaces.

Opinion

Bring student art back to NECC's walls

EDITORIAL

Recently the NECC art and design department was informed that all the student wall art was in violation of a fire code and had to be taken down. The question asked by many since is, when did art become against the law?

For many students at NECC, art is an opportunity to express themselves freely. That opportunity has been ripped away from them with the institution of the fire code.

What should be against the law is having students being exposed to a safety risk every day in a building without sprinkler systems.

If the Tech Center and the Student Center are the only buildings with sprinkler systems, then there should be no problem hang-

ing student artwork there. Why would the college spend so much money on a new building if they are not going to utilize it to its full potential?

The Spurr Building is old and outdated. Wouldn't it just make more sense for the school to invest money into creating a building that is safer for their students?

It seems like the obvious solution. That way students would be able to have their artwork displayed without putting anyone out.

The Haverhill public library has expressed interest in displaying some of the artwork created by NECC students.

If student success is our school motto, then why has our college come to the point where we have to turn to outside resources for support that we are able to give to our students?



MCT cartoon

NECC Observer

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Issue #	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
# 9	Jan. 24	-
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# 11	Feb. 28	-
# 12	March 7	Feb. 28
# 13	March 28	March 21
# 14	April 11	April 4
# 15	April 25	April 18
# 16	May 9	May 2

How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurr building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line or risk not being received by the Observer email system.

We prefer submissions via email:
observer@necc.mass.edu
"Include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line.

But, if you wish to submit a letter via paper:
Letter to Editor, NECC Observer, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill, MA 01830

While we attempt to publish all letters, we reserve the right to edit or reject those received.

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Roaming Reporter

Do you think NECC should have an art gallery?



Lorenza Peguero, Graphic Design
"Yes. I'm an art student and we need something. We need space. We need to put up our work to inspire others."



Kwaku Duah, Nursing
"I think a special area for art is fine, but we don't need to build anything new. Let's just move the pictures somewhere else."



Rhiannon Lombard, Visual Arts/Graphic Design
"Yes! Not having an art gallery pigeon-holes the student's ability to share their art with the world. We need a place to view artwork and to advertise for our program."

Photos/Interviews by Stacie Peters



Lauren Dupree, Business
"Definitely. I take art classes, and a gallery would allow people to appreciate what students are actually doing."



Keith Clark, History
"Yeah. Although I didn't know there was an art major. But since there is, it would seem like a natural step to have a gallery for student work."



Joe Woekel, Business
"Sure. An art gallery would enhance our school's character."

Opinion

Ann Coulter: killing Conservatism once again

Another prejudiced slur from the Conservative Queen of trash-talk

By STACIE PETERS
Opinion Editor



Whenever Ann Coulter opens her mouth, I should close mine. I shouldn't complain about the idiotic statements pouring out of the hole in her head.

After all, every time she refers to a Muslim as a "raghead" she's doing her own platform a disservice, and as someone who leans to the left, that should make me happy, right?

Well, it doesn't. Because while I lean to the left, it's also my opinion that the country needs to bridge the extreme, growing gap between the parties. Ann Coulter is undermining this process by, first of all, refusing to reach out to the other half, and second, cementing the stereotype of the stiff, ignorant, conservative Christian zealot.

Coulter has written several books and appeared on many talk shows as a political commentator, but her commentary is uninformed and, often, downright offensive. What may have begun as a passion for politics and a desire to ignite change, if Coulter ever possessed such qualities, quickly degenerated in an obsession with promoting one thing: herself. Like shock jock Howard Stern and comedian Sarah Silverman, Coulter says things to get a rise out of people. She wants to offend people, if only to increase her notoriety. And while this game may work in the entertainment industry, it's doesn't translate to the political field. Coulter only makes a mockery of herself.

Coulter's latest publicity stunt: calling Democratic presidential hopeful John Edwards a gay slur. I won't reprint the word here, but I'll give you a hint: It starts with an 'f.'

invading all Muslim countries and forcing them to convert to Christianity. Coulter represents the extremest of the extreme in a sad act to make herself rich, and unfortunately, it's working. She's written five books and sold over a million copies, to both those who eat up the nonsense she spouts as well as those who are simply curious, or want to read the book just so that they can later pick it apart and defame it.

Who is Ann Coulter helping other than herself? Even within her own political playing field, she's said some strange things. For example, despite being adamant about enforcing Christianity as law, she seems to have problems with certain Christian denominations, such as the time she referred to Howard Dean leaving the Episcopal Church "which doesn't really count as a church." Now I don't know a lot about denominations and what

makes each one different, but if you're all worshipping the same God, why does it matter how you choose to worship, so long as you're not hurting anyone in the process?

Some people want to ban Coulter from speaking, but I disagree. First of all, that is against our country's right to freedom of speech. Second, it's fun watching Coulter dig her own grave for the extremist platform she stands upon.

Later, she offered a snide apology, claiming that she was joking, and that she would never "offend gays by comparing them to John Edwards."

After 9/11, Coulter suggested

“Some people want to ban Coulter from speaking, but I disagree. First of all, that is against our country's right to freedom of speech. Second, it's fun watching Coulter dig her own grave.”

Good old days weren't so good

Drugs give users a false sense of happiness

By MARK PALERMO
Contributing Reporter

The good old days I grew up in weren't always so good. In the late 1960s, Lawrence earned a well-deserved reputation (along with Beverly, Worcester and Springfield) for having the highest percentage of junkies in the state. Junkies were so common in Lawrence's old neighborhoods, that there even existed a certain "junkie chic." Users had a style of dress and behavior. Pushers strutted around with pride and self-satisfaction, as if they were successful entrepreneurs or rock stars. I knew beautiful girls that were attracted to junkies and sought them out. It seems incredible now that this loathsome, diabolical habit was cool; but it was a statement of disenfranchised youth. Nothing has changed.

Thinking back to that time, a popular song by Curtis Mayfield called "Freddie's Dead" resonated with me; it portrayed my own feelings about the everyday lives I observed and the dissolution of the inner life of the old mill city.

This could be such a beautiful world

With a wonderful girl...
Why can't we be brothers?
Protect one another?
No one's serious,
And it makes me furious,
Another Freddie's on the corner now...

If you wanna be a junkie, why?
Remember Freddie's dead...

Why are drugs so seductive? Even the happiest, most well-balanced person can feel existential loneliness, even on the happiest day of their life. What do I mean by existential loneliness? Many years ago, I watched an old "Star Trek" episode that had to do with an alien in spirit form, who came to the earth on some sort of mission. To satisfy his curiosity, he wanted to inhabit a human body to see what it was like. Somebody on the Enterprise crew let him enter their body. Once the alien spirit found himself inside, he started to weep. When he came back out of the body, he was overcome with sorrow for human beings: He had not been able to feel the beauty, mystery and active participation in the universe. The alien had gotten a taste of existential loneliness, the default ground of people's being, the place they live inside themselves which is debased from their natural higher selves.

It doesn't matter that this feeling of separateness and isolation from the universe itself is illusory. The philosopher Alan Watts says, "In the same way an apple tree 'apples,' the universe 'peoples.'" We are indeed active participants and truly connected, we just can't feel it. And herein lies the problem.

Pain is the human condition. We must all – sooner or later – face separation, sickness, loss of friends and family, old age, and we all have to die. Philosopher and guru Ram Dass once said that suffering existed even inside the Playboy mansion – he had stayed there. But suffering itself is

not nearly as much of a problem as the lack of meaning that modern people experience in their lives.

I used to ask some of my old dooper friends what heroin feels like. The answer was usually something to do with heaven. One guy actually told me he felt like "God's son." He had found something to fill his existential separateness, and he assured me that heroin does this very well – even better than sex. No wonder then that people steal from friends and family, sell their bodies, and destroy their lives for it.

If life is sad at times, if we are filled with doubt or paralyzed with fear, the way is forward. Viktor Frankl addressed the question of meaning after he survived the Holocaust, during which he experienced the murder of his family. In his book, "Man's Search for Meaning," he used the Holocaust, not just to record atrocities and barbarism, but as an existential laboratory to examine the inner lives of people under the most dehumanizing and brutal conditions imaginable. Professor Frankl found that even under these wretched conditions, some people were nevertheless able to find a sense of meaning.

The Bible tells us there is nothing new under the sun. We all must find our own way home. And there is much to be learned during our brief visit on this planet. In the words of Viktor Frankl, "The door to life opens outwards."

Mark Palermo is an NECC faculty member.

LETTERS

When is enough really enough?

To the Editor:

Paul Bamberger's letter about "the richest country in the world" ending with "Somebody ain't playin' nice" was very disturbing. I did not like going about my everyday comfortable life, reading my college's newspaper, and having to be reminded about poverty in the United States. I wish I could forget about it. I wish it did not interfere with my concept of the "good life." But it did.

His letter should give us all a little shudder. As we go through our lives striving to have more and better "things," do we ever ask ourselves, "When is enough, enough?" We witness sports figures upset because they are only making \$8 million a year. All around us we see signs of outrageous consumption. No longer is the house and the garage the goal – it is the house and the three-car garage, housing a BMW, an SUV, and something else. We see people becoming famous overnight. We see instant lottery millionaires. Young people are choosing fame as their major career goal, somehow believing they have a pretty good chance in our "instant" society of getting it. No wonder so many Americans suffer from depression when they realize their lives will never stack up with the "rich and

famous."

But Paul brings us back to reality by reminding us of hungry people in the midst of such abundance. Paul did this to me once before. I bumped into him on the coast of Maine when he was bird watching. Being both part of the same union struggling for a new contract, I asked him what he thought of the latest offer. He said he didn't care, that he had enough money to live on, and was content with what he was making. This stunned me, but it gave me something to think about – namely, when do we have enough?

I thank Paul Bamberger for challenging my assumptions about life and reminding me of the terrible disparity in wealth in this country. No wonder those without hope turn to drugs and crime as our prisons fill up. This cannot go on. At some point the discrepancy between the haves and the have-nots will get so great, the poor will have no choice but to rebel and try to get theirs. As a society, we need to wake up to this problem. As individuals, we need to wake up to the realization that money and the things we buy cannot bring us happiness.

George Medelinkas
NECC Faculty Member

QUOTES: ANN COULTER EDITION

"I think women should be armed, but should not be able to vote."

To a disabled Vietnam veteran: "People like you caused us to lose that war."

When asked which laws she would have repealed: "Well, before the New Deal... the Emancipation Proclamation would be a good start."

"The swing voters – I like to refer to them as the idiot voters because they don't have set philosophical principles. You're either a liberal or you're a conservative if you have an IQ above a toaster."

"God gave us the earth. We have dominion over the plants, the animals, the trees. God said, 'Earth is yours. Take it. Rape it. It's yours.'"

Opinion

Pets are unnecessarily over-medicated

Pet owners should look for the root of the sickness before medicating

BY ARTEMIS SAVORY
Contributing Reporter



Today's pets are probably being drugged up just as much as their humans – if not more. The worst part is that these drugs may be solving short-term problems while creating long-term issues.

There are many drugs out for pets: there is flagyl for diarrhea, amoxicillin for just about anything and everything, doxy if lyme is a possibility, and ivermectin, should worms be suspected or if a dog comes down with red mange. (There is a very high possibility that ivermectin will kill a collie or other herding breed.)

There was once a beautiful Great Dane named Marley. She was a Boston Dane, mostly black with some white patches, who had floppy

ears and great big paws. When she was only five or six months old, at the start of the hot summer, Marley began acting very lethargic and had a temperature. Unsure of what to do, but having had many animals prior to this pup, the owner isolated the dog and gave her amoxicillin for a couple of weeks and eventually the dog seemed to be back to normal.

Five months later it became obvious that something was not quite right. Marley was being very careful of the area below her chin, where some kind of wound seemed to be coming about. It was hard and scab-like, and would drip from time to time. Soon the owner tried to clean up the mess with hydrogen peroxide and warm water every night, but this seemed not to be doing any good, as the wound worsened. It spread down her chest to her paws, eventually removing all the fur in its path, creating more scabs that bled every day. It was discerned that Marley had

the mites to affect a dog, although puppies are more likely to be affected than adult dogs. Antibiotics are given to treat whatever symptoms are obvious to the observer, which is the reason Marley was given amoxicillin in the first place – to treat the temperature and her lethargy. Although antibiotics do not solve the root of a problem, it is hoped that treating the outward symptoms will give the body time to heal itself. But antibiotics add toxins to the animal's body, which can sometimes compromise the immune system's ability to heal.

According to Martin Goldstein's book "The Nature of Animal Healing," "A body whose inflammations are repeatedly suppressed with drugs will exhibit increasingly serious symptoms or 'diseases', until they grow powerful enough to be potentially lethal." The more drugs ingested, the more of a threat those same drugs pose to the animal. Had other steps been taken for Marley rather than just feeding her amoxicillin during puppyhood, her immune system probably would not have been compromised, leading to the possibility that she may not have ever contracted red mange in the first place.

A month or two of betadine and warm water baths, ivermectin shots

Antibiotics add toxins to the animal's body, which can sometimes compromise the immune system's ability to heal.

developed red mange, also known as demodectic mange.

Demodectic mites exist in every dog because they are passed from mother to puppy. It is very rare for



Melody Martinez photo

Could you ever hurt a face like this?

and plenty of attention led to Marley's recovery, however, it will be curious to see whether anything more should happen to this pup, since those antibiotics in the beginning may have prepared her for a life of rare battles.

Drugs, or medicines, may seem like the supreme cure-all for pet ailments, but the truth is that they may sometimes actually bring about worse problems farther down the road.

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Opinion

We're like frogs in a boiling pot

We won't know how hot the water is until it's too late

BY JARED HAMAOU
Contributing Reporter



Global warming is a serious issue that is affecting the climate around the world. Unfortunately, many people are not aware of the issue. A lot of

people that do know are not doing anything to help with the problem either.

The United States is one of the leading contributors to global warming, but at the same time, also has more people that are trying to find a way to fix it. Some may say that global warming could be too expensive to find a way to prevent it from getting worse. One of the major lead-

ers in informing the world on global warming is former vice president Al Gore. Another person who is trying to figure out ways to fix the problem is Sir Nicholas Stern. Hopefully by spreading the word and showing that this issue can lead to disastrous events, people will start doing things to prevent global warming.

In our world today, many people do not see global warming as a huge issue, because there are so many other things going on in the world. There are wars being fought all over the world and people don't seem to look at global warming as seriously as they should. Unfortunately, the longer people don't pay attention to it, the worse it becomes.

Al Gore gives us an example in his movie "An Inconvenient Truth:" "Should we prepare for other threats besides terrorists?" If we simply forget about our climate changing, then there are going to be many problems with the world. If the glaciers melt

then many of the land masses surrounded by water will be under the water surrounding it. The government is just as bad as the general public when it comes to helping the issue.

Lawmakers, however, are taking it seriously. In August, California had a bill passed and approved to cut 25

percent of emissions of carbon dioxide by 2020.

There are many things that can be done to help. Many people simply are not aware of the issue, and that is why they don't do anything to help. A lot of people do know, unfortunately, and they think that since they pay taxes, they will have to pay more tax money. Gore shows his grief in his movie by quoting Mark Twain, saying, "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

Many people are trying to think of ways to prevent the issue. Stern is trying to find a cost-efficient way to help us. He said that for now, we will view mitigation as an investment. "If these investments are made wisely, the costs will be manageable, and there will be a wide range of opportunities for growth and development along the way."

There is a pretty good chance that if we find a more cost-efficient way of preventing the issue, people will help out. Many people that cause a lot of the climate change say things that make them look like they aren't doing anything wrong. Gore explains people like this in his movie: "You can't make somebody understand something if their salary depends upon them not understanding it."

“Should we prepare for other threats besides terrorists?” If we simply forget about climate changing, then there are going to be many problems with the world.

Enough already about Anna Nicole!

Even in death, Anna Nicole Smith continues to make headlines

BY JENNIFER CANFIELD
Contributing Reporter



Is this aggravating anyone else?

I am sick of hearing so much in the news about Anna Nicole Smith. Her body should have been laid

to rest long ago. Obviously her family didn't care about her enough since they took so long to bury her body.

This process has taken way too long. It seems like everyone involved with this case is in it just for the money and publicity. Howard K. Stern, Anna's boyfriend, had been fighting in court for a while, until the courts had decided to let Anna's body be buried next to her son's. As soon as you think that you won't need to hear about this again, her mother goes and files an appeal. The irony.

As if I am not already annoyed

at this case, do they really have to start everything over? The judge alone from the last trial was aggravating, and rather over the top. Crying in the court room, getting very emotional. Of course to make herself look good her mother is dropping the appeal, what a surprise.

The worst part has not even come yet. Now you also know there's plenty more to go from here. Just wait, we still need to see how the custody trial goes. As if people really care that much, like it is ever going to affect any one of us personally. Really this is making our court system look like a joke. There must be people out there that see this. Our court system is being too lenient.

When this trial is over, I hope whoever gets custody of the child has to explain to the little baby girl why her mother was flaunted on nationwide news. Hopefully they aren't hurting that little girl's future image with the way they are portraying her mother, Anna, like a drug addict. The court system obviously hasn't thought enough about this. Now, that girl, Dannielynn is known nationwide. Dannielynn will have to grow up in the spot light, which can drive a lot of people over the edge. It's not even like it is her decision - it's her guardians.'

Once and for all, let us keep Smith out of our news.



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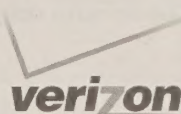
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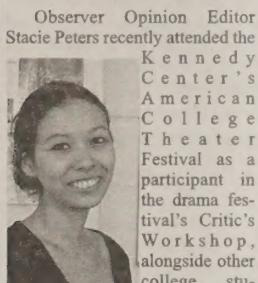
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Include "Opinion Editor" in subject line.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Opinion editor earns honors at festival



Observer Opinion Editor Stacie Peters recently attended the Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival as a participant in the drama festival's Critic's Workshop, alongside other college students from the New England region. The festival took place Jan. 30 through Feb. 4. Participants in the competition were asked to attend and review various theater productions at the festival, working on strict deadlines. Peters was named regional alternate, and will compete in the National Festival in Washington, D.C., should the winner choose not to attend.

Contemporary Affairs Club meets

On Wednesday, March 7, there will be a discussion on presidential candidates. David Coman-Hidy will represent the Republicans and give an outline of the differences among the several candidates and reveal his favorite. Danielle Rigo-Reilly will do the same for the Democrats.

Safe Spring Break

Wednesday, March 7 - Safe Spring Break - Haverhill Campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn tips to have a safe and fun spring break. For more information, please contact Rob Parker in Haverhill at 978-556-3823.

Student Senate

Wednesday, March 7 - Student Senate Meeting - Both campuses, A112 & L240 from 3:30-5PM. For more information, please contact Dina Brown at 978-556-3732.

Forty-fives Tourney

Thursday, March 8 - Forty-fives Tourney - Haverhill Campus, Sport & Fitness Center from noon to 1 p.m. For information on any recreation or intramural event, please see Maureen Saliba in D104 or call 978-556-3718.

Ping Pong Tourney

Monday, March 19 - Ping Pong Tournament - Haverhill Campus, Sport & Fitness Center from noon to 1 p.m. For information on any recreation or intramural event, please see Maureen Saliba in D104 or call 978-556-3718.

Does your campus organization or office have something to announce in Campus Briefs? Please email information to observer@necc.mass.edu. Be sure to include "campus news brief" in the subject line.

Learning accommodations for students with disabilities

March 19 to 23 is
Disabilities Awareness Week

BY SARA CODAIR
News Editor

Everyone on campus will have the opportunity to learn about the services offered by the learning accommodations office during Disabilities Awareness Week.

Donna Szekely, a disability services specialist who works for the learning accommodations office, said, "the goal of the week is to make sure that everyone is aware of all the services we provide." She said that a lot of people do not know that services are available, or do not know that they have a learning disability.

During the week, there will be campuswide events that everyone will be welcome to attend, as well as teacher in-service workshops.

Szekely said that the campuswide workshops will cover three different topics: the difference between services on a college level versus a high school level, assistive

technology, and informational workshops on autism spectrum disorders such as Asperger's syndrome.

The purpose of the teacher in-service workshops is to make teachers more aware of students with disabilities, and will help develop teaching strategies for students with disabilities.

"The learning accommodations

ties.

If a student has documentation of one or more of these disabilities, then he or she is eligible for a learning accommodations plan. This means that the student can get services such as a note taker, a scribe, extra test time, access to various assistive technology and more, depending on the individual's needs.

"The goal of the week is to make sure everyone is aware of the services we provide."

-Donna Szekely

office offers three different types of services: services for the deaf and hard of hearing, supported education and disability service management," said Szekely.

She said that disability service management is the most common. It is for students with documented disabilities. Some examples are ADD, learning disabilities, Asperger's and physical disabili-

ties. According to Szekely, supported education is "individual support for those with psychiatric disorders such as anxiety, bipolar or clinical depression."

This service provides supportive advising, advocacy, referrals to outside agencies and allows classroom accommodations.

For example a student with an anxiety disorder would be allowed

to take tests in an environment that would minimize the anxiety.

The services for the deaf and hard of hearing are for any student that can provide documentation of the disability, and would include interpreting services and assistive listening technology.

For those students that do not have documentation, the center can help them find an outside agency that can define and document their learning disability.

The center offers many different types of assistive technology.

Assistive technology is any software or hardware that allows a user to fully participate in an activity, for example, computers with magnification software or talking calculators. There are also screen readers, which are computers that will read anything that's on the screen, which is helpful for people who have difficulty reading. Pocket dictionaries and spellchecker are also available.

"The center provides all the training to learn how to use the assistive technology," said Szekely.

Assistive services are also available for people with temporary injuries such as broken arms.

To be, or not to be?

That is the question regarding voting on gay marriage in campus club debate

BY GREGG COOK
Contributing Reporter

"There is no magic elevator," said Professor Andy Morse at a recent Contemporary Affairs Club meeting in reference to an analogy regarding two mountain climbers looking for an easy way up. You can either hike up the mountain, or spend all of your time walking around it, searching for that elevator. This was how Professor Morse believes we should look at legitimizing gay marriage in our society.

"It's going to happen eventually," he said, "so we might as well do it the right way."

The right way, he said, would be to put the issue to the people, and to let them vote on it. It will not be quick, and it will not be easy, but the results will be long lasting, permanent even. For this to happen, the public would need to be convinced of the benefits of gay marriage, such as an overall

increase in the welfare of communities, as well as all of the things civil unions do not provide - things like equal protection and pensions.

Morse said the wrong way to go about legalizing and legitimizing gay marriage would be to use the so-called "magic elevator." In this case that means going to the courts, where people you know to be in favor of the issue would rule for gay marriage. The reason this is the quick way is because it is also a tricky way. Democratic process is pushed aside for a small court ruling, which is not a long lasting solution because it can be overruled or dismissed. The magic elevator is no good. We are going to have to hike the mountain here.

All of this was an opening statement for the discussion the Contemporary Affairs Club held at its weekly meeting on Feb. 28. The following talk held many opinions, some for, and some against gay marriage.

The reasons in favor of gay marriage revolved around the rights of citizens, the benefits it would provide to the people, and the statement that it will happen eventually. Most reasons against were based on religious ideals, but some went so far as to mention the biology of it, saying it simply wasn't meant to be reproduction-wise.

"There is no magic elevator."

-Professor Andy Morse

State insurance may cost less than predicted

BY STEVE LEBLANC
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) - The average uninsured Massachusetts residents could obtain health care coverage for as little as \$175 a month under the state's insurance law, Gov. Deval Patrick announced Saturday as he released the results of negotiations with the state's health insurers.

The lowest monthly premium is far lower than an earlier estimate of \$380 a month suggested by some insurers.

"This is a big improvement from the first round of bids and a big step forward for health care reform," Patrick said. "The health security that was the point of health care reform will be delivered at an affordable price."

The minimum plan detailed by Patrick would cover the average uninsured Massachusetts resident, who is typically around 37 years old. It includes prescription drug coverage and covers basic medical care, such as emergency room visits and outpatient medical care.

Lower cost plans would be available to young adults. Prices would also rise and fall depending on the age of the person seeking insurance and where they live. If purchased on a pre-tax basis, the lowest cost plans drop to \$109 a month for someone earning \$50,000 a year.

The panel charged with overseeing the law the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector board is expected to give its seal of approval to the seven health care plans that met the affordability goals at its meeting Wednesday.

On March 20, the board will vote on whether the insurers will be

able to offer lower cost versions without drug coverage. Health care advocates have said any minimum coverage must include prescription coverage. They said that without it, the state would be giving its blessing to inferior insurance plans.

The insurers include Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, ConnecticutCare, Fallon Community Health Plan, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Health New England, Neighborhood Health Plan, and Tufts Health Plan.

All of the plans must include coverage for preventive doctor visits and an out-of-pocket limit, after which the plan would pay everything else to prevent individuals from facing bankruptcy, said Connector Authority Executive Director Jon Kingsdale.

The insurers will be able to offer different kinds of plans, from basic to premier coverage.

The plans are a critical piece of the landmark insurance initiative, which requires all Massachusetts residents to have health coverage by July 1 or face tax penalties.

One of the toughest parts of the law has been trying to come up with relatively low cost private health plans for uninsured residents earning too much to qualify for subsidized care - about \$29,400 annually for an individual. An estimated 160,000 to 200,000 people are uninsured and do not qualify for state-subsidized plans.

But coming up with a definition of what the state considers minimal coverage proved elusive. The definition is crucial, since only plans that meet the guidelines will receive the state's blessing and exempt those who enroll in them from the possible tax penalties.

News

National News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Unusual amount of campaign coverage for an election 20 months away

NEW YORK (AP) – The 2008 campaign is already playing out so intensely that it dominates airtime at a point where only political junkies usually pay attention. Remember: It's 20 months before voters will make the ultimate decision.

This is uncharted territory for people in both politics and television, who wonder when campaign fatigue will set in. Many Americans may be sick of seeing their next president before he or she even takes the oath of office.

In one measure of news interest, campaign stories have consumed 95 minutes of attention this year through Feb. 27 on the ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscast. That's more time than in the comparable periods for the previous four presidential election cycles combined, according to the Tyndall Report.

Body parts delivered to wrong location

CASCADE TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) – Two packages containing human body parts – including a liver and part of a head – meant for a medical research lab instead were delivered to a home.

The body parts, sent from China, were mistakenly dropped off Thursday at Franck and Ludivine Larmande's home by a DHL express driver who believed the bubble-wrapped items were pieces to a table.

"My husband started to unwrap one and said, 'This is strange, it looks like a liver,'" Ludivine Larmande said. "He started the second one, but stopped as soon as we saw the ear."

"Something wasn't right. It was scary, and I'm glad I didn't open them."

The couple called Kent County sheriff's deputies, who determined the preserved body parts were for medical research, Lt. Roger Parent said.

Authorities believe 28 more bubble-wrapped human organs and body parts could be dispersed across the country, The Grand Rapids Press reported. Two of five packages headed to the northern Michigan lab broke open, scattering their contents.

"There will definitely be a shock to people if they see these things, but there is no hazard to health," Parent said.

DHL is investigating whether it should have shipped the body parts and how the packages were dispersed, spokesman Robert Mints said.

Senate tackles issues

Food, buses and budgets discussed at student meeting

By SARA CODAIR
News Editor

Healthier food for vending machines and safer shuttles were just a couple of things discussed at the Student Senate meeting last Wednesday.

Colleen O'Shaughnessy is writing a letter to the food committee. O'Shaughnessy and the other members of the Senate agree that the food offerings on campus are not open enough, the vending machines have no healthy food and that there should be vending machines in the technology center.

Becca LaPierre says that the Cyber Cafe, located in the One Stop Student Center "is always full and being used by the students." She suggested that a salad bar be put there.

About the same place, Brenda Caunter said that the sign says it is open until 2 p.m., however they stop cooking food at 1:30 p.m. "They should offer full service until 2 p.m.," she said.



Sara Codair photo

Senate members pose for a group picture.

Dina Brown, the Student Senate adviser, said that she is a member of the food committee, and will discuss these topics at their next meeting.

The Senate is not satisfied with the status of shuttle buses, and is planning to present Mark Andrews with a list of problems that it has.

"We have been dealing with it for two years, and the problems still are not fixed," said Joey O'Donnell.

The door on the shuttle is being fixed, however, the Senate still concurs that the shuttle is unsafe. They say that it is overcrowded and does not safely hold as many people as it

claims to. They also said the drivers do not always check the passes, and people who do not need the shuttle are getting on.

The Senate is putting together a finance committee. This committee will review request from the clubs, then suggest the proposed budgets to the school.

According to Brown, there is going to be a \$400 million gap in state funding for higher education, which may not directly affect club budgets, however, the Senate will more carefully review who really needs what.

Some Senate members recently attended a one-day leadership conference. Junior Leal was one. He said the main focus of the conference was a speaker, Mike Shiley and his video titled "Inside Iraq: the Untold Story."

According to Leal, the documentary showed a side of Iraq you don't generally see on television. He said the video showed a suicide bombing, and a roadside arms market where grenade launchers were being sold for \$15.

The Senate purchased a copy of the video and will be arranging for an event that will show the video here at Northern Essex.

Planning for the Bone Marrow Drive is under way. The drive is to take place in Lecture Hall A in the Spurk Building on March 25.

There will be free food at the drive. It will either be cooked by volunteers or donated by local restaurants.



Sara Codair photo

Senate member Chris Keefe raises his hand to make a motion.

Pickup truck and trailer flip over just off campus



Security Log

With the help of Eagle Security, this security log has been released to inform students and staff about the incidents requiring the assistance of Eagle Security at the NECC campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. This log covers events on the Lawrence campus from Jan. 23, 2007 to Feb. 27, 2007.

Jan. 23, 2006 – A black handbag that was lost was found in the atrium

and turned into security. The owner claimed that cash was missing. A report was filed.

Feb. 2, 2007 – A cell phone was returned to a student from the lost and found.

Feb. 5, 2007 – Maroney Co. was on-site when the sump-pump alarm sounded due to high water level.

Feb. 7, 2007 – Simplex Co. was on-site to install a camera security system.

Feb. 8, 2007 – Security was called to the second floor by Donna Evers for a person who was under the influence of alcohol. The individual was escorted off campus by security.

Feb. 16, 2007 – A student had his disabled car towed from the parking lot.

Feb. 20, 2007 – Security reported that a pickup truck with a small box trailer had tipped over going around the corner of Lowell St. and Franklin St. to the Lawrence Police Department. The accident happened outside of the campus gates so security was not directly involved in the matter. No one was hurt in the incident.

All of the information compiled in this log by Arts & Entertainment Editor Jasmin Pastrana and Editor-in-Chief Joni Quinn.

World News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Possible talks between the United States and Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) – Iran will not necessarily have direct talks with the United States if it attends an upcoming regional conference about Iraq's security crisis, an Iranian official said Sunday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammed Ali Hosseini said Iran will announce "in the near future" whether it will attend the March 10 conference in Baghdad.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made the surprise announcement Tuesday that a U.S. diplomat will be at the conference and that she herself will go to a later session.

International Atomic Energy Agency hold board meeting on Iran

VIENNA, Austria (AP) – Key members of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency gather Monday for a session on approving the suspension of dozens of technical aid programs to Iran as part of Security Council sanctions meant to punish Tehran for its nuclear defiance.

The focus of the International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board meeting will be on Iran's refusal to suspend uranium enrichment activities and linked problems.

Diplomats familiar with the agency's Iran file said before the closed meeting that Tehran continues to refuse IAEA requests to put up cameras that would give agency monitors a full view of in its underground hall at Natanz, which Iran says will ultimately house 54,000 enriching centrifuges, enough to produce dozens of nuclear weapons a year.

New technology yields higher fuel efficiency

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – Fuel efficiency through new technology and hybrid vehicles will be a top theme at this year's Geneva Motor Show, with DaimlerChrysler displaying a lower-emission diesel engine and Toyota unveiling its Hybrid X concept marrying an electric motor with a gas engine.

The 77th edition of the show comes amid stronger concern about global warming and the environment, and a debate about auto emission limits in Europe. One sharp focus is on making engines more fuel-efficient and more environmentally conscious – while helping to maintain a healthy bottom line.

DaimlerChrysler AG's Mercedes brand will unveil its BLUETEC emission-control technology in combination with a consumption-optimized four-cylinder diesel, an engine that could lower emissions while increasing gas mileage.

Working to reach out on campus

NECC club hopes to raise awareness of noteworthy issues

BY JONI QUINN
Editor-in-Chief
& JASMIN PASTRANA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Community Outreach club, formerly known as New Winds, is working hard this semester with hopes to spread more awareness throughout the campus regarding community and environmental issues.

According to Professor Meredith Gunning, adviser of the club, MassPIRG (Public Interest Research Group) was a group on campus that promoted such issues as recycling, reducing the cost of textbooks, supporting local charities and issues regarding the homeless. Gunning wanted to start a student club that focused on these same issues but without the politics.

"You don't really see any other student groups that focus solely on these issues. The group shows that NECC cares and wants to help out with environmental issues," said Gunning.

The club held a bake sale on Monday, March 5 to benefit the Arc of Greater Lawrence.

"We generally don't work with them actively but we're working on exposing different charities to NECC," said Joe Donlon, member of the Community Outreach club.

The Arc of Greater Lawrence empowers people with disabilities by providing services that promote personal choice, growth and full participation in their communities. It

was established in 2001 with the goal of meeting the advocacy needs of people with disabilities in the Greater Lawrence community, including Methuen, Lawrence, Andover and North Andover.

The club hopes to have at least one bake sale a month to benefit a different charity each time.

"We want to work with different charities and organizations," said Donlon.

During Environmental Week, the club plans to have at least two tables on display: one on vegans and the other focusing on low cost ways of living to promote a more sustainable environment. A possible third table will consist of recycling issues.

On April 2, the club plans on hosting a talent show in Lecture Hall A from noon to 2 p.m., in hopes of spreading awareness on the issues the club focuses on and possibly gaining new members.

According to Christina Edmunds, secretary of the Community Outreach Club, the club has the lowest population of any other organization on campus.

"I'm pretty sure that's a fact," said Edmunds.

"We need to get more members," said Secretary Christina Edmunds.

The talent show will be open to all staff, faculty and students.

"We're expecting a huge turnout," said Donlon, master of ceremonies for the event. "Hopefully, it will become an annual thing."

The talent show will be titled "Northern Essex has Talent," a spoof on the TV show "America's got Talent."

The club is discussing the possibility of presenting a slide show to help the cause.

"We welcome anyone that wants



Jasmin Pastrana photo

The Community Outreach Club, previously known as the New Winds club, recently did some fundraising through a bake sale.

to be a part of (the club). You don't have to attend every meeting or participate in every event. As long as you are interested in helping the community, students are encouraged to join," said Gunning. "We are always open to new ideas such as visiting local nursing homes or other suggestions that help the community."

The Community Outreach club meets every Monday at noon in room C108. For more information, contact Meredith Gunning at 978-556-3539 or mgunning@necc.mass.edu.

You don't really see any other student groups that focus solely on these issues. The group shows that NECC cares and wants to help out with environmental issues.

**- Prof. Meredith Gunning,
Community Outreach club adviser**

A rising star on – and off – the court

Knights center Nolan Murphy has busy life off court

BY ASHLEY GOUTHIER
Contributing Reporter

Aside from leading the Northern Essex Knights to a 14-game winning streak this season and being a full-time carpenter, 26-year-old Nolan Murphy could be considered your average college student.

Murphy is a 1998 graduate of Haverhill High School and is in his second year at NECC as a liberal arts major. After he graduates this semester, Nolan plans on looking around at other schools and furthering his education in liberal arts. In Murphy's free time he has taken up sign language, and, sorry ladies, he also spends time with his girlfriend.

Murphy has played basketball for the college both years he has attended, and also maintained the position of captain and center, but his love for basketball did not start here. At age 7, Murphy started shooting hoops, now providing him with 20 years of experience.

Not only is Murphy a great basketball player, but he's funny too.

When long time friend Jason Porro was asked to describe Nolan Murphy with one word, Porro used "funny."

"He always has me laughing," says Porro. "Even when I'm having the worst day, I can depend on him to make me laugh."

Murphy lives his life by the longtime Boy Scouts motto, "be prepared." That's not the only thing Murphy thinks that somebody wouldn't figure out through first impression. "I'm a good person, honorable guy, and I have good morals."

Nobody will be surprised if one day the last name Murphy is on the back of a pro basketball jersey, because Nolan Murphy has hardly reached the end of his road to success. If anyone is up for a laugh and enjoys liberal arts and basketball,

Nolan Murphy is the man to talk to on campus. And no worries here, with his 6-foot 8-inch figure, he's sure hard to miss.



Courtesy photo

Knights basketball center player Nolan Murphy, top row center wearing jersey number 33, poses with the rest of his team at the beginning of the fall 2006 semester.

Arts & Entertainment

'Epic Movie': an epic waste of time

*Seltzer and Friedberg
can't live up to the
'Scary Movie' legacy*

BY SAM JOHNSON
Contributing Reporter

When "Scary Movie" scribes, Aaron Seltzer and Jason Friedberg introduced their latest installment of the (insert genre) movie satires, the laughter was deafeningly silent.

A once absurd but admittedly laughable series of films, writers/directors Seltzer and Friedberg strayed from their safe-zone work of categorized pop-culture references and mild slapstick humor, and massacred any respect that anyone might have had left for the duo.

"Epic Movie" features familiar face Kal Penn, as he and pseudo-comedic actors try their relentless best to juxtapose story lines from such blockbusters as "Pirates of the Caribbean," "The Chronicles of Narnia," and "X-Men."

Their attempts to humor audiences with slapstick violence and pop-culture referencing seem tired and entirely forced. It was as if the directors just recently discovered the heart attack hilarity of "America's Funniest Home Groin Kicks,

“
The duo seem to have... taken hold of a bottle of miscellaneous pop culture pills and held it right over our tongues until our cheeks were full of prescription Paris Hiltons and RX Captain Jack Sparrows.

Punches, and Miscellaneous Mishaps," and tried their mediocrity to cram the past few years of decent entertainment down our throats in the form of poor celebrity look-alikes and 13-year-old boy cafeteria humor.

The film's concept is not entirely dismissible — there will always be room for the bubble-gum entertainment world to be comically harassed, but the fact that the directors felt the need to parody such self-aware productions is unfathomable. Taking characters who base their roles on satire and wit and imitating these characters in satire and dim-wittedness makes the film seem as though it is falling short of topical humor, and actually becoming the humor itself, for its irrelevance and off-the-mark shots at belittling quasi-respectable performances.

What Seltzer and Friedberg lacked in logic, they also lacked in substance.

When "Airplane!" was released in 1980, it was almost as if it was the second coming of feature-film satire, solidly constructed by Mel Brooks' work with "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein," and "High Anxiety."

These films were brazen with sharp, witty dialogue, and beveled with clever storylines and knowledgeable actors. Although slapstick was a certain focus in these movies, it was an aspect rather than a main character.

The "Epic Movie" duo seem to have opened our middle-class mouths, taken hold of a bottle of miscellaneous pop-culture pills, and held it right over our tongues until our cheeks were full of prescription Paris



Courtesy photo

Hiltons and RX Captain Jack Sparrows.

What was true for the second coming of cinematic satire is completely tangled in reverse for the new rapid-fire generation of directors and writers: Substance trumps slapstick/absurd trumps arbitrary.

The only inspiring moment in "Epic Movie" was the head-scratch casting of Crispin Glover as the film's Willie Wonka proxy. At the same time, however, it was somewhat disheartening to see Glover in a role that was obviously chosen for money's sake.

Seltzer and Friedberg were dead on with the titling of this film.

Epic Movie: an epic irrelevance to topicality, an epic setback to respectable satire, an epic ingestion of jokes you laughed at in sixth grade, and an epic waste of effort to find your student ID to save you two dollars on admission so you won't feel quite as bad as when you're silently contemplating in the back of the theater why you chose this movie to review, which in fact makes an epic amount of nonsense, considering that the majority of movie-goers who pay to see this film are probably numb enough to laugh at it, and in turn will scoff at your article and declare, "Whatever, dude, that movie was wicked good!"

NECC artists upset by display decision

Continued from Page 1

Faculty members say that although the current location is not the best, at least students still have a place where they can show off their work to friends and family.

"We have such a strong student art population, I would love for their work to be seen," said McCulloch.

She also explains that the artwork is a form of advertising, saying that if students see the work being done, they are more apt to enroll for a class.

"If they're not aware of what's available to them, they're never going to try it," said McCulloch.

Art students are equally upset about the situation.

"Visual Art is no different than Performing Art. You wouldn't have students work and rehearse and never perform. We need to be able to

show our work in order to get feedback on areas that are strong or areas that are weak. We can't get it if our work is not shown," said Elizabeth Patterson, visual art and graphic design major.

Art student Ashley Concheiri said, "That's a really bad idea since the program is so limited. This is where students display their work. Its discouraging for students to not have the space available."

According to McCulloch, high school, middle school and elementary school art programs are being cut all over the state. The college art programs are students' last resorts to express their creativity.

"Its too bad that the arts have not taken center stage here," said Kidney. "Art should be incorporated all around campus. It's better than looking at concrete walls."

The artwork has been hung in the current location for many years, but according to Clarke, the actual enforcement of the fire regulations have been much stricter since 9/11 and the Rhode Island night club fire.

"A life is not worth that artwork," says Clarke, of following the safety code.

"When it comes to life safety, the college will not put anyone at risk," says Mark Andrews, vice president of business and administration.

Andrews says that the art program at NECC is taken very seriously.

"If there's a series of artwork that would like to be displayed...we would support it. We allow for a number of art exhibits to be held in the library conference area. You can hang the work in that location with-

out violating the code," said Andrews.

Andrews recently worked on a project to create space for students in the photography program in the student center.

"They didn't have enough space," said Andrews of the photography students.

Andrews says that NECC gets thousands of students, faculty and visitors every day and the safety codes must be taken very seriously.

The fire regulation proved to be a nuisance on Monday, March 5,

when the art department held Portfolio Day. Mass Art, New Hampshire Institute of Art and Montserrat came to NECC to discuss student artwork and possibility of admission to their institute.

According to Kidney, the maintenance department would only allow the artwork to remain displayed for Portfolio Day under the condition that she remain in the corridor to monitor the situation, and the artwork had to be removed immediately after the event.



Jasmin Pastrana photo

Art student Petronila Rivera shows off her artwork one last time before the student art displays come down.



Jasmin Pastrana photo

The third floor corridor of the Spurr Building where student artwork was once displayed is now empty.

Famous artist to give lecture at NECC

Ed Smith will be visiting the college on March 19

By ANDREW WAHL
Observer Staff Writer

World-renowned artist and sculptor Ed Smith will be visiting NECC and holding a lecture on March 19, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in room 130 of the Tech Center.

The event will be open to students and the general public and will be free of charge.

Smith has been described by D. Dominick Lombard, a writer for the New York Times as "a prolific artist, inspired by the imaginary, the mythological and the biblical. He is a modern-day Albert Pinkham Ryder, an odd sort of Romantic who has lavish visions of a troubled world."

Among other achievements and awards, Smith he has received include a Guggenheim Fellowship in Drawing and Sculpture, Awards for Teaching Excellence, National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, a Ford Foundation Grant, First Alternate Prix de Rome, a Fulbright Award, and Associate Fellowships at Trumbull College, Yale University, New York State Council on the Arts, and others. He has taught extensively across the

“ (Smith is) a prolific artist, inspired by the imaginary, the mythological, and the biblical. He is a modern-day Albert Pinkham Ryder, an odd sort of Romantic who has lavish visions of a troubled world.

-D. Dominick Lombard
New York Times writer

country and is currently among the faculty at Marist College.

Professor Lindsay McCulloch, Visual Arts Coordinator, worked hard to get Smith to visit the college.

As a graduate student at Boston University, McCulloch heard him speak during one of his studio visits to the school.

She recalls him and his work as being "really compelling and very powerful." She said, "his work alone was amazing."

McCulloch hopes that whoever comes to hear him speak on March 19 will share the sentiment. She

encourages anyone to come, and places emphasis on the fact that you don't have to be an artist to just appreciate or feel inspired by such a speaker and his artwork.

Essentially, anyone who attends the lecture has the opportunity to benefit from the experience.

Students who attend the lecture will be presented the opportunity to have Smith review their portfolios.

Second year visual arts major Ashley Conchieri is particularly excited for the event, saying, "It's



courtesy photo

World renowned artist, Ed Smith, with examples of his art work.

really good to have such an established artist visiting the school." Conchieri also said that she is "very interested in any feedback and ideas that (Smith) can give me."

McCulloch commented that this kind of opportunity that is being afforded these students is "just tremendous." Apparently, its much more typical for an artist of this caliber to be visiting established art schools. But, just because you are not

an art student, doesn't mean that you will be singled out. McCulloch described Smith as very cool and easy-going. "Ed is very accessible," she said. She feels that he will "get people inspired, and show them that art is for everyone."

"You don't have to be an artist to just look at a piece and hold your own feeling towards it or appreciate it in your own way."

'Pan's Labyrinth' reveals world's madness

By ALLISON BOISSONEAU
Contributing Reporter

Rarely, in this generation and millennium, does a film strike a person as an amazing and astounding work of art. "Pan's Labyrinth" has changed all that. "Pan's Labyrinth" shows viewers a schizophrenic, multi-dimensional world not unlike our own. This Academy Award-winning film that hails from the country of Spain is now in theaters.

The plot follows a young Spanish girl named Ofelia (Ivana Baquero). The year is 1944 in Spain during the country's own rampant civil war under the dictator Francisco Franco. Ofelia lives with her pregnant mother Carmen (Ariadna Gil) and stepfather Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez), a soldier in Franco's army and one who is willing to kill to send his message across. Vidal is a menacing character who firmly believes in his political cause. Ofelia, being a child, is blind to the political landscape of her country.

Ofelia and her mother move in with Vidal to a manor in the countryside. One day, Ofelia follows a fairy-like insect. She comes to a mystical maze and meets a deformed goat-like creature called a "faun" (Doug Jones) that tells her she must undergo three tasks to reclaim a long lost kingdom.

Ofelia agrees to the tasks, even though they are dangerous.

This may at first sound reminiscent of the movie "Narnia." However, the two films are completely different. This film is very dark and yet mystical at the same time, in contrast to the lighter tone of "Narnia."

"Pan's Labyrinth" combines both of Ofelia's worlds. Ofelia lives in the real world where a horrific war is going on around her, as well as in the world where she must be the heroine who saves the kingdom from the real world's threats.

"Pan's Labyrinth" accurately depicts the traumas, tragedies and injustices of the Spanish Civil War. The film does not censor its subject matter, and this gave it an R rating in America.

The film features brilliant performances from its acting cast, wonderful and convincing. Lopez, who portrays Captain Vidal, is a convincing and yet multi-faceted villain. American Audiences will come to have a liking for him in time.

"Pan's Labyrinth" was praised at the Cannes Film Festival, and recently won two Academy Awards, for cinematography and for makeup. "Pan's Labyrinth" is a soon-to-be classic film that is becoming renowned for its originality.

'Moan' will make you smile

By COLIN COVERT
McClatchy Newspapers

"Black Snake Moan" comes at you like a swaggeringly tasteless exploitation movie. The set-up hits outrageous and titillating Southern gothic hot buttons. See! The chained nymphet. See! Her black master. See! Her dark obsessions.

Craig Brewer (who exploded onto the scene with the pimp musical "Hustle and Flow") is not a filmmaker interested in safe subject matter. Yet he's also attracted to the idea of redemption. Brewer's new film taps the same down-in-the-dirt sensuality and stargazing spiritualism that has inspired so much great Southern music and literature. It may pull you into the tent with a promise of hoochie-koochie girls, but it delivers a rousing sermon on faith, hope and charity before it lets you back out again.

In his best role in ages, Samuel L. Jackson plays Lazarus, a retired farmer and juke-joint bluesman whose troubled life could be made into a song. He's just been dumped by his wife, who betrayed him with the one man he thought he could trust. His house feels powerful empty.

Then he discovers the unconscious, bloodied, half-naked Rae (Christina Ricci), the town nymphomaniac, dumped on the roadside by his home. He tenderly nurses her back to health, but won't consider his work done until he cures her unnatural itch for sex. This involves a lot of tough-love counseling about self-

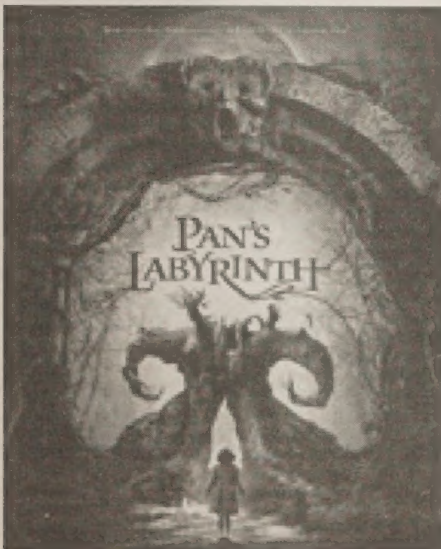
respect, and chaining her to the radiator until the lesson is learned. Like his namesake, Laz is all about rebirth.

It takes a while for the insatiable Rae to simmer down. Ricci throws herself into the role with emphatic abandon, honoring the serious side of the character while giving her irresistible comic shadings. She attacks a visitor to Laz's home like a sexual trapdoor spider, in a scene worthy of a Russ Meyer farce.

Jackson owns the film, clearly relishing a part that taps his flair for macho heroism and funky humor. He also proves himself a more than competent guitarist and singer, growling out a rendition of "Stagger Lee" that will sell a lot of copies of the soundtrack.

But Brewer is too canny to let any performer overshadow the movie. Ricci is remarkable and Justin Timberlake contributes a solid supporting turn as Rae's boyfriend, who enlists in the military to escape her unquenchable demands but is anxious about leaving her alone. Brewer subtly eases a lot of social insight into the movie. The film is set in the kind of backwater town that Wal-Mart's devastate; Laz, with his cabin and his little plot of farmland, is actually better off than Rae and her trailer-trash friends.

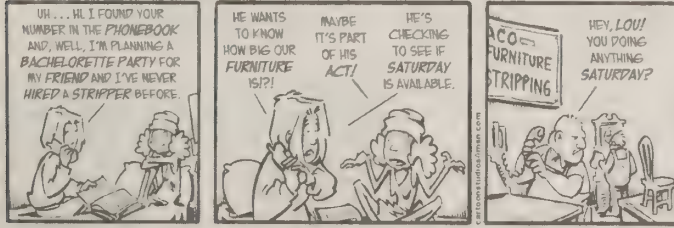
The implication is clear: If he can better himself, so can Rae and so can anyone. "Black Snake Moan" is an exercise in optimism, a gritty but sweet "Pygmalion" story. No one could come out of this movie feeling worse about the world.



Arts & Entertainment

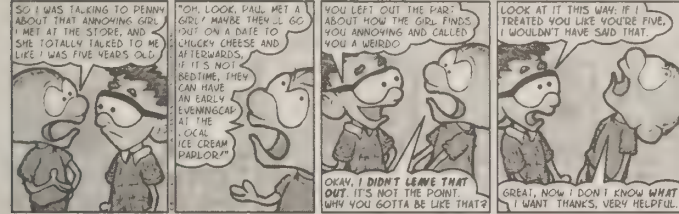
A College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner



PAUL

BY BILLY O'KEEFE MRBILLY.COM/PAUL



Welcome to Rolling Rock National Park by Josh Shalek



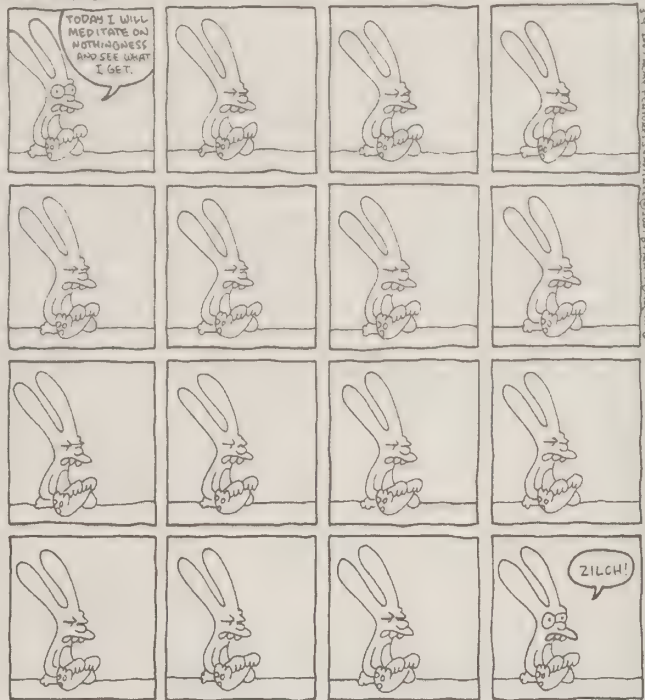
"You were all I wanted in a man, Fabrice, until I realized your name is so girly, I could gag."



"I was using my iPod and iPhone around some poor people today, when I was suddenly stricken with iGuilt."

LIFE IS SWELL

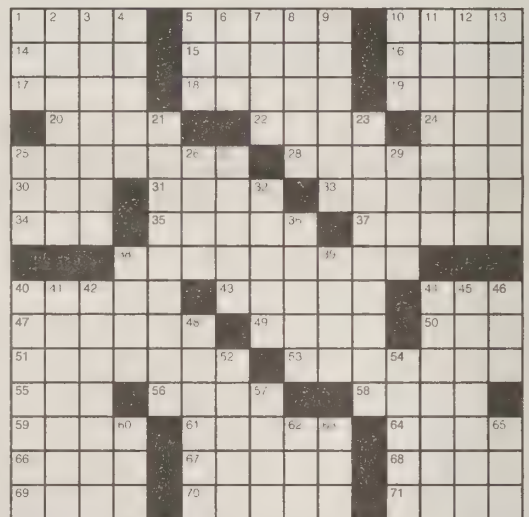
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Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Help a perp
5 Little lakes
10 M. Harmon series
14 Spicy stew
15 Scuzzball
16 Expression of disgust
17 Welsh symbol
18 Faint evidence
19 Fencing sword
20 Nights before
22 Sprinkle after a shower
24 Raven remark
25 Princess Di's maiden name
28 Floodgate volume
30 Change for yen
31 Comic Idle
33 Cigar lover
34 6-pointers
35 More pleasing
37 Try hard to persuade
38 Home run king
40 Math starter?
43 Dogs and Man
44 Summer hrs. in Chicago
47 Hockey figure
49 European river
50 "Norma"
51 Floor cabinet
53 Football figure
55 Fancy vase
56 Do a postal job
58 Croon
59 Old Thailand
61 Military groups
64 Stadium level
66 "So Big" author
67 Singer Shore
68 Gang's ground
69 Dinner and a movie, e.g.
70 Shabby
71 City on the Irish River

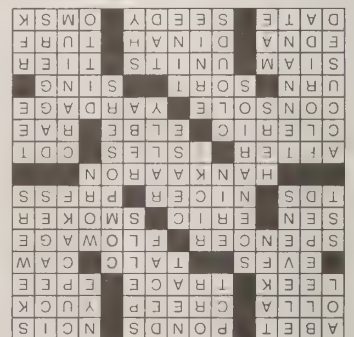
- DOWN
1 Big name in e-mail
2 Censored
3 Football teams
4 Confiscated
5 Cut of an agt.
6 Hockey great Bobby
7 Swell!
8 Joltless joe
9 Incantations
10 "Bill __, the Science Guy"
11 Bakery treat
12 Glacial periods
13 Cooking sticks
21 Plot outlines
23 Ludwig van Beethoven and Jon Bon Jovi
25 Mach topper
26 __ go brag!
27 Talk-show host Lake
29 Haggard
32 Come to an end
36 Come from behind
38 That woman's
39 Country diva McEntire
40 Defendant
41 U.S. peninsula
42 Victoria of "All of Me"



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3/10/07

Solutions



- 44 Skull
45 Look __ at
46 Kicker's need
48 Obscures
52 Ford from Tennessee
54 Same again
57 Pitchfork element
60 Actress West
62 Wee bit
63 Just short
65 June 1968 assassination victim

The color red is in for spring

The color of love makes a big splash in spring fashion

BY CORI BRODIE
Contributing Reporter

February was National Heart Month and Valentine's Day, so it was no surprise to see red in all the stores. This year, there is an exceptional amount of red that has been shown in all the style magazines, not to mention fashion runways. In a recent issue, Elle magazine stated, "Bold dynasty red staged a comeback on the fall runways."

The color red reminds me of love and this year everyone loves the looks of red, from red necklaces to red heels.

When Jennifer Hudson of the movie "Dream Girls" stepped onto the red carpet at the Academy Awards this year, she really shined. Jennifer wore a slim-fitting red Roberto Cavalli dress that wowed the fashion critics. In the latest issue of Vogue magazine, Hudson appears

wearing a deep red sleeveless dress.

This year's most important way to wear red is with accessories. Elle went on to say, "What is the chicest way to wear the season's statement color? Splash out sparingly, putting your focus on A-list accessories." They give an example of Marc Jacobs red satchel bag, which costs around \$400. H&M and Forever 21 won't break the bank with their large selection of inexpensive clothing and accessories, such as thick red belts, beaded necklaces and bold red tops, which are sorted by color. Prices of accessories and tops range from \$10 to \$40.

A subtler look can be a deep red

of Chanel's nail polish.

Like a perfect black dress, a red matte lip will never go out of style. Christina Aguilera resembles the late, great Marilyn Monroe with her bold red lips. It can be difficult to find the perfect lipstick, but a place like Sephora, which has just opened in the Rockingham Mall, is a perfect place for getting tips. The store is very pricey, but anyone can get a makeover for free. The women are great and give helpful advice. Their brand name lipstick is about \$10 to \$12 and ranges up to \$35 for Dior's lip palette. A cheaper version of a great lipstick is Covergirl's long lasting lipstick that's only \$5, which is sold at any drugstore.

Another great look are red peep-toe heels. Christian Louboutin is the infamous designer of the red patent leather peep-toe heels that costs \$900. Even Jessica

Simpson has created the same style shoe in her own collection. Although, for a college student, \$900 isn't the ideal amount of money to spend on a pair of shoes. Payless has knockoffs that only cost \$20.

“

The color red is vibrant and makes anyone feel confident.

- Erica Verville

nail polish. Chanel's Vamp, a limited addition nail polish, is a classic. In 1994, the polish sold out almost instantly. The deep red look is back in the limelight. Rimmel's Black Cherry is a great deep red, which is only \$3 compared to \$18 for a bottle

An eclectic NECC student, Erica Verville of Merrimack said, "The color red is vibrant and makes anyone feel confident," when asked why the color red could influence women in their everyday fashion.

There is also red clothing to help charities. Laura Bush helped organize a project called "Red Dress Project" that included many celebrities, such as Kelly Ripa and Rachel Ray. The project opened in New York Fashion Week when many celebrities walked the runway showing off famous designers' red gowns to raise awareness of heart disease. The Gap has a special clothing line called "Product Red," ranging from \$28 to \$100. Half of the proceeds from the collection go to help eliminate Aids in Africa.



MCT campus photo

This red dress turned heads at the BCGC fashion show.

'Weird' is in the eye of the beholder

A look at trends and subculture from a new point of view

BY NICK SERMUKSNIS
Contributing Reporter

Its 12:14 a.m. and I'm busily chomping away at a bag of Life cereal and downing a nice, cool bottle of Jolly Rancher soda. Most people would say it is a fine night to be sleeping or making the futile attempt to sleep (that's for all you insomniacs out there). Truth is, most people wouldn't be eating cereal in the same span of time that they're downing jolly rancher soda, watermelon flavored too. Actually, doesn't that seem kind of...weird.

n't that seem kind of...weird.

Truth be told, there are a lot of things that are weird in our society. Things that at first glance or impression leave a strange taste in our collective mouths. Sometimes we even have to blink, just to make sure that when our eyes open a split second later, we still comprehend that weird thing, whatever it may be.

The way I look at it though, is that there is no such thing as weird. At best, it is merely a word defined by more words that give it punctuation and meaning. But as my chemistry teacher taught me oh so long ago, "there is no such thing as suction!" I swear that makes sense, bear with me.

Weird does not exist. There is

just a lack of a positive following. Take for instance, a comic book fan. This guy loves his comic books. He whistles the Spider-man theme song in the shower and imagines his girlfriend, if he manages to get one, dressed up as Wonder Woman. This guy is certainly going places.

OK, now take for instance a football fan. I've been around plenty of football fans that just love to scream, loudly and with such enthusiasm that I swear it could knock the knickers right off me. They religiously sit in front of the TV waiting for the game, just to scream, regardless of the fact that no one can hear them. Sometimes, they even have the audacity to take their shirts off and prepare for battle, they get a group of guys together and write on

their chests. Frankly, I find that just as odd as the comic book fan's obsession with kryptonite condoms. I hope someone gets this.

While I personally do not watch or interact with football in any way, and though I am an avid reader of comic books, I try to look at the scenario at hand with a fresh and outsiders perspective. Reeling the line back to this article's original purpose, there is no such thing as weird. Why? If you put a football fan in a room full of comic book fans, what does that make him or her? If you put a comic book fan in a room full of football fans, what does that make him or her? I bet that football fan feels a little out of place. With no one to relate to, he or she is left in the corner to tend to his

own interests. Same thing goes for the comic book fan. He or she is the odd person out. That person is left without a positive following. That person weird.

There is nothing wrong with either type of fan. Just as there isn't anything wrong with people who enjoy classical music or Stephen King novels.

Now I must ask though, why is it that subcultures make up our society? Our geeks, our jocks, our blue-collar workers, our punks and our goths, why do people choose to segregate and distance themselves from each other? Groups even treat other groups as a threat and with great animosity. If humanity came from the same origin, then why are we so distant now?

Soak up some sun on a small budget

Some spring break tips to beat the cold weather blues

BY STEPHANIE
NAPOLITANO
Contributing Reporter

In less than a week you may be soaking up rays on a beach in Cancun or sipping Pina Coladas poolside in the Bahamas. But then again, you could be stuck in Massachusetts wishing you were

doing the previously listed activities. That's right, spring break is here! I'm assuming that many of my fellow students are not able to spend their spring break the way they would wish to, but there are ways to beat these cold winter blues.

For starters, try and work on your tan. It is a proven fact that tanning helps you to produce more energy, and reduce cholesterol. Vitamin D in the tanning rays can also help increase your mood, so perk up and hit the tanning beds! An inexpensive salon in the area would

be Beach Bum Tanning, located at 517 South Broadway Street in Salem, N.H. Beach Bum has a variety of different types of beds, an assortment of tanning lotions, and is relatively inexpensive. Not a fan of UV rays? Still accomplish that just hit the beach look with some great self-tanning lotions. A remarkable product would be from the Bare Bronze collection at Victoria Secret's, called Sheer Self Tan Mousse. It goes on light and dries in five minutes. It also contains silk protein hydrates and aloe vera gel,

which is superb for your skin.

Another idea to get your mind out of these New England downers and into a tropical daydream is to try a new product called Caress Body wash, Tahitian Renewal. It can be found in any drugstore or market, and contains exfoliating pomegranate seeds, and Tahitian Palm milk.

If you feel like going all out and pampering yourself, try one of the local day spas. Bella Vita, located on Osgood Street in North Andover, is a great spa. They offer full spa packages including facials, mani-

cures and a massage.

If you're not into all of that self-pampering, get yourself in the spring season mindset by attending a flower show. The Boston Flower Show will be held March 17 through 25; you can order your tickets at www.masshort.org.

Whatever your preference is, remember to have a fun spring break, and if you aren't going away on vacation, don't lose hope just yet warm weather is right around the corner!

Trends

XM-Sirius merger affects subscribers

The two providers of satellite radio become one – here's how will it affect you

By JONATHAN TAKIFF
Philadelphia Daily News
(MTC)

XM and Sirius satellite radio intend to merge. Last week, the rivals made the news official. Here's what it means for subscribers, present and future.

Q: What's the point of the merger?

A: To effect cost savings and create a more competitive product. The companies have been dueling to the death to nab high-profile content, paying hundreds of millions to lock up exclusive deals with a Howard Stern or Oprah Winfrey, NFL, NBA

or NASCAR (which just this month shifts alliances from XM to Sirius).

Stopping the infighting, and combining XM's 8 million subscribers and Sirius' 6 million, gives them a much bigger bat to make deals with content providers, a larger audience to spread out costs and a more attractive product to lure new customers and advertisers (for the non-music channels).

Getting rid of content redundancies – such as similarly programmed rock, country, Latin, classical and mainstream jazz formats – will save a few bucks, while surely ticking off loyalists. Combining support departments, from marketing to product development, will save a lot more money.

Q: I'm already a satellite radio subscriber. Will I need a new radio?

A: For the immediate future, no. But to take full advantage of the combined service's expanded offerings – likely to include back-seat

mobile video channels for the kids, more foreign language outlets and maybe music-on-demand downloads – you'll eventually want to trade up to a new portable or car tuner that nabs signals beaming from both partners' satellites.

In a lot of cars, you'll be able to hold on to the "head end" unit while swapping out behind-the-dash parts.

Q: When will these products be available?

A: Pretty quickly. Even before they launched six years ago, XM and Sirius were on order from the Federal

Communications Commission to develop an "inter-operable" chip set. The idea was that radios – especially those in cars – should be able to receive signals from both services, negating exclusivity deals the satellite radio companies had struck with car makers.

Both services said they'd be able to pull off a compatible chip within five years, so it's fair to presume the technology exists and can be fitted into new-model radios by the end of this year or the beginning of next, when the companies hope to close on their merger.

Q: In the new world order, will I be able to get Sirius "exclusives" on the XM radio I have now, or XM-only content on my Sirius radio?

A: Announcing the merger, executives talked vaguely about a la

carte programming. Adding, say, just Stern or Winfrey's high-profile channels should be technically easy, though subscribers may have to pay a premium to unlock these feeds.

But adding multi-channel services like every live Major League baseball game (currently on XM) or every NFL match-up (now on Sirius) will probably require one of those inter-operable radios, plus a few extra bucks on top of your existing (now \$12.95 a month) package price.

Q: FCC chairman Kevin Martin recently said that the law forbids an XM/Sirius merger. And didn't the FCC nix a DirecTV/Dish Network union a few years ago? Won't all that put a kibosh on the deal?

A: Read his statements again. Martin has also said that with the right assurances, and a change in the regulations, a merger could happen.

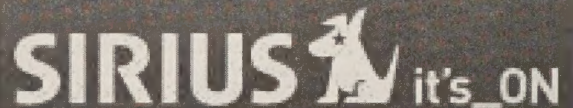
While the FCC's rules on satellite radio were written in the 1990s

to guarantee competition, the two license holders argue that there's plenty coming from areas no one could have imagined back then. Like Internet radio, broadcast HD Radio (yeah – well, maybe), portable music players (MP3, iPod), plus music services delivered to mobile phones.

And trust us, even more competition for your ears is coming. The major music labels are giving serious thought (no pun intended) to all-you-can-download monthly music subscriptions. They're test-marketing the concept elsewhere in the world.

Also coming soon, wireless delivery technologies like WiMAX and MediaFLO that provide stable Internet radio and TV reception in moving vehicles and mobile phones.

Given that XM and Sirius have already lost billions of dollars, a combination of their services may be the only path to survival, and thus in consumers' interest.



Horoscopes



Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Friends and lovers will this week react strongly to new opinions or late social changes. Group expectations and romantic passions are high over the next 12 days. Take extra time to explain last minute cancellations and clarify long-term intentions. Later this week, contact a distant colleague or forgotten friend. Before April, complex family demands and competing romantic interests may be quite draining for friends or co-workers. Your emotional support is needed.



Taurus

TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Financial facts, permissions or paperwork are now vital to the success of long-term business ventures. Thoroughly check sources for misinformation and carefully research proposed improvements. New partnerships and complex work projects will now benefit from cautious planning and a relentless commitment to detail: refuse to be limited by poorly defined agreements. After Saturday, social invitations will dramatically increase: stay open to usual proposals.



Gemini

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) New romantic proposals are passionate but unreliable. Over the next few days, enjoy compliments from potential lovers but wait for valid social promises, public displays of affection and firm commitments. Love affairs and sensuality will soon be an ongoing distraction. Remain determined and

respond quickly to sudden reversals. Later this week, a disgruntled colleague may voice strong opinions. Refuse to be drawn into bold discussions: workplace politics are unpredictable.



Cancer

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Love relationships will this week challenge your need for privacy and predictable routines. Someone close may now wish to bring greater spontaneity into their lives. Creativity, romantic expression and group behavior may all be at issue. Define strong terms and accept new changes: in the coming weeks emotional progress will be fast and rewarding. After Wednesday, business relationships may expand to include financial agreements or partnerships. Study key paperwork.



Leo

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Family decisions are unnecessary over the next few days. Although loved ones may now press for quick home revisions, this is not the right time for newly established routines or heated group discussions. Encourage patience and opt for light social encounters. Close relatives will follow your example. After Thursday, powerful insights are available. Key issues may involve unfinished love relationships or past misunderstandings: pay special attention the subtle hints of friends.



Virgo

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Social habits and repeated emotional patterns are now a source of private tension. Group activities

may provide the needed relief. After Tuesday, plan outdoor events or explore new forms of entertainment. Over the next few days, loved ones will adopt renewed optimism or actively challenge unproductive behaviors. Friday through Sunday highlight bold career discussions and financial negotiations with loved ones. Complicated ideas will require extra planning: stay alert.



Libra

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Listen closely this week to the social needs and family expectations of loved ones. A long-term friend or relative now needs added group support. Areas affected involve addictive behaviors, complicated relationships or unusual power struggles between friends. Stay focused and offer sincere opinions: your sensitivity to private details will be appreciated. After Thursday, many Librans begin several weeks of increased career ambition and business research. Opt for change.



Scorpio

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Romantic partners may this week ask for increased access to private family decisions. New proposals, community involvement and group awareness are now a top priority for loved ones. Encourage a fresh perspective from all concerned: important relationships will soon require dramatic emotional growth and serious choices. Later this week, minor home repairs may prove unusually costly. Go slow and wait for new instructions: revitalized plans will soon emerge.



Sagittarius

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Before mid-week, younger relatives may be temperamental or quick to anger. Don't be derailed. Close friends and family members now need extra time to explore a fresh social perspective and new family behaviors. Provide optimism and reassurance. Calm home relationships will soon be re-established. After Thursday, many Sagittarians begin a brief but intense phase of job strain or work disruption. Authority figures may challenge key ideas: if possible, research other options.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Friendly or innocent flirtations will now deepen. After Tuesday, expect rare complications in business relationships and unusual proposals in long-term friendships. Although new attractions are potentially rewarding, minor delays concerning confirmed times or romantic promises may still be bothersome. Wait for an obvious display of public affection. Wednesday through Saturday, career and financial negotiations are complex but successful: closely study detailed paperwork.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Someone close may soon reveal a powerful need for social or romantic change. Boredom, emotional withdrawal and long-term doubt now need to be publicly addressed. After mid-week, offer constructive ideas for improvement

or revised habits: loved ones need your guidance and continuing daily support. Thursday through Saturday accent rare family discussions and unexpected financial improvements. New sources of income may be revealed: remain flexible.



Pisces

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Important business decisions are best avoided over the next few days. Authority figures may now feel briefly threatened by public announcements, probing questions or suddenly changing routines. Remain cautious but watch for valid opportunities for candid discussions. Your suggestions and needs are valid. Later this week, a close friend may demand a detailed explanation of a past decision or social event. Offer neither: disputes will not be easily resolved.

If your birthday is this week: Business demands will increase over the next three to four weeks. Watch for unproductive colleagues to soon ask for special assignments or relinquish control of key projects. Over the next few months, job roles will be unreliable. After mid-June, however, written permissions and rare employment promotions are accented. Stay focused and carefully follow the subtle instructions of key officials. Between Aug. 20 and Sept. 9, an unexpected romantic attraction may appear. Established relationships will be challenged with fresh ideas or potential love affairs.

Sports

Knights season ends in playoffs

Coach, three players recognized for accomplishments

BY DUSTIN LUCA
Guest Sports Editor

A season of awards and accomplishments ended for the Knight's Division III basketball team Saturday in a 63-54 playoff loss against Gateway Community College.

"They've had an exceptional second half of the season," said Susan L. MacAvoy, the college's coordinator of athletics, recreation and intramurals, just days after the loss that ended a 24-9 season, which included a lengthy winning streak and was followed by two wins and losses in the postseason.

In the regular season, the Knights picked up several wins, including a 14-game winning streak that ran from a 74-45 victory against the University of Connecticut at Avery Point on Dec. 7, 2006 and ended with a 78-74 victory against Quinsigamond Community College on Feb. 13, 2007.

In the postseason, the team first defeated Massasoit Community College in a 91-83 victory on Feb.

24. The next day, the team lost against Quinsigamond Community College, 92-86.

The team then advanced through the quarter finals in a 72-63 victory against Holyoke Community College in a game played on campus on Feb. 28. The season ended days later though, when the Knights lost in the regional semifinals against Gateway Community College.

The season did not end on a bad note, however. On top of the impressive record at the end of the season and being ranked sixth in the entire country for team defensive

"(Stratton) did an exceptional job this year," said MacAvoy. "This is Darren's best season since he's been coaching for the past nine years."

Additionally, Anthony Griffin, guard for the Knights, was selected to the regional all-tournament team at the conclusion of the season.

"Out of the four teams in the tournament, they pick one player from each team (to be recognized)," said MacAvoy, adding that the team that comes out on top is rewarded by having two players selected for the recognition.

At the state level, Matthew Zinck and Willis Martinez, both also guards for the Knights, were selected for the state's all-tournament team.

"The top two teams get two players select-

ed," said MacAvoy, whose Knights ranked second to Gateway in the regional tournament. "That's how we got two players selected."

Griffin, Zinck and Martinez have also been nominated for an all-region award based on their in-game performance during the entire year. Any players selected for the award will have the recognitions displayed publicly in the lobby of the Sports and Fitness Center along with the other awards received for all accomplishments throughout the year.

They've had an exceptional second half of the season.

-Sue MacAvoy

average, four individuals, including the team's coach of nine years, are being recognized for their accomplishments.

Men's basketball Coach Darren Stratton received the Coach of the Year award for NJCAA's 21st region. In order to receive the award, Stratton had to out-perform and, in turn, beat out eight other coaches, including coaches from nine community colleges spread across the commonwealth along with a few in Connecticut and Rhode Island.



Courtesy photo

Knights guard Matthew Zinck, selected for the state-level all-tournament team, takes a shot in a recent playoff game against Quinsigamond.

Eagles find selves in familiar territory

Boston College hopes to end their regular season well

BY JASON NIVEN
Contributing Reporter



Boston College finds themselves in a situation they know all too well. With Selection Sunday less than a week away, the Eagles will probably take their usual seed between 4 and 8.

Over the past three years, the Eagles have had two number 4 seeds and a 6 seed. They are on track to land another 6 seed. Early losses this year to Providence, Vermont and Duquesne are keeping them out of a 3 or 4 seed.

B.C. looks to snap out of their funk on Sunday, as they finish up their regular season at Georgia Tech. The Eagles have dropped 3 of their last 4 games and aren't looking strong against contenders. Anchored by ACC player of the year candidate Jared Dudley, they look to end a long streak of dismal finishes. Boston College has never

made it past the Elite Eight in the tournament, a feat they haven't accomplished since the 1994 season.

It's not all bad - things are looking up for the Eagles after their 59-54 win over ACC rival Clemson this past Saturday. Dudley dropped 23 points with 11 boards in the win, he's now averaging 19.6 points and 8.6 rebounds per game. That is the Eagles 10th ACC win this year and keeps hope of the conference championship game alive.

It's surely not impossible to make it to the Elite Eight on a 6 seed. The road is tougher than it would be from a 3 or 4 seed. They will probably see two quality teams before that round, instead of one.

Boston College has the arsenal to survive the threats posed by quality tourney teams. Sean Marshall is settling in. He's scored in the double digits in three of his last four games. Tyrese Rice also averages in the double digits in points, with 17 points and 5.6 assists per game.

If those two can catch fire, while Dudley plays as consistent as he's been in his span with the Eagles, they could be a potential Final Four threat. Only time will tell if early round blunders will stop the Eagles from making history this year. Or maybe the Eagles will rise - better yet, soar to the occasion.

Wintertime is down time

March is a tedious month for most New England sports fans

BY BRANDON GRAY
Contributing Reporter

March—one of the more awkward months in New England. It's a time when we are beginning the process of change. That change can be tough to handle. Whether it be the random spurts of winter then spring weather that usually creates a mess of the outdoors, or the lack of quality sporting events to keep us hardcore Boston Sports Fans Entertained.

March has now become the void between the end of the Patriots yearly playoff runs and the beginning of the six month cult known as the Red Sox season. If you listen to the local sports talk radio, it becomes apparent that March is

a month that is for the sole purpose of hyping up the upcoming baseball season. With some Patriots draft talk mixed in there as well.

The Celtics own the worst record in the NBA and, to no surprise, the only real interest in our basketball team seems to be next year, or rather how many games we will lose this season and the corresponding draft pick that follows. Although they are

currently on their first 4-game win streak since December, there is almost no chance of playoffs.

The Bruins slip from playoff contention with every passing week, giving away games in the final period on a regular basis. So there is not much to discuss concerning the professional hockey team right now either.

It's not that March isn't a big sports month. The NCAA holds their 64 team basketball tournament known as "March Madness." Around the country this tournament is a huge event. Though around Boston, College sports are not taken as seriously. The only real competitive pro-

is fast approaching. This is a "baseball town" and the Red Sox are the team.

The 2007 season has not had a lack of hype. In fact there has been enough to overshadow the rest of the local and national sports season. The fascination with new Japanese pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka has been unprecedented; other new additions such as J.D. Drew and Julio Lugo have also been receiving much attention. As sad as it is the Red Sox are dominating the local sports media and they won't even play a game for a Month.

For someone that takes interest in the local sports scene, this March may be a long month. Our current teams are bringing up the rear of there respected leagues and the excitement surrounding the baseball team only seems to make the time between now and the start of their season go by slower.

My advice to the bored sports fan is to take interest in this coming March Madness tournament. This 64 team tournament is filled with great competition, thrilling games and teams (schools) no-one new existed making deep tournament runs. It can help null the void felt by the professional sports fans in this area during this long and cumbersome month.

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gram is the Boston College Basketball program. They regularly put together solid seasons and make the big dance, but have never been highly ranked. They also have never made it past the "Sweet Sixteen" in the tournament. So they are not held with high regard by the local sports fans.

Yes, March seems to be a telling sign of one thing the Red Sox season

Sports

An indescribable feeling at work

Fans and athletes alike, everybody plays in a game

By TYLER PAGLEY
Contributing Reporter



There's 6.6 seconds left in the game, your team is down by one and you're the one shooting the free throws. The gym is jam packed with hundreds of screaming fans, and you just happen to be the visiting team.

As the sweat drips off your face you get ready to shoot your first free throw. You can't even hear yourself think because the screams of the fans echoes off of all sides of the gym. You can feel the floor underneath you vibrate with the banging of the bleachers and the constant screams yelling at you to choke. You shoot your first free throw, and watch it go in, barely grazing the rim. The only sounds now are your teammates cheering, the small crowd who came to sup-

port you cheering, and the fast beating of your heart slow down a bit.

All that is quickly erased and it goes back to the hostile environment that you had faced not five seconds ago. Your shot tied the game and now the crowd gets louder, giving everything they have just for you, and you only, to miss. This is a rare occasion where it's now everyone against you, not your team. Your heart begins to race as it did before. You've stopped shaking because now you have the confidence to hit it again, which you do, and the crowd suddenly hushes, except for the loyal fans who traveled to come support you and your teammates on the sideline. You watch as the other team tries frantically to get down the court in 6.6 seconds to try a desperation shot.

They get the shot off in time, but it bangs off the rim. The feeling you get, knowing you had just won the game for your team and hushed one of the most hostile crowds in the state, rushes over you and you can't help but smile and wink at the crowd, showing that it was just another day at the office for you.

If you are an athletic competitor, you know that half the fun is

If you are an athletic competitor, you know that half the fun is being able to play in front of a big crowd, whether it's your fans or your opponents' fans.

being able to play in front of a big crowd, whether it's your fans or your opponents' fans. In its own little way, a crowd can help determine the course of the game, depending on how much heart they have toward their own team.

In a situation such as the one above, you get a feeling of power knowing that you single-handedly hushed hundreds of screaming fans that were all hoping that you would fold under pressure. Not only do you get the win, but you get bragging rights, self pride, and the respect of the opposing coach and players. Overcoming a hostile crowd can really boost your self-confidence.

But what's the feeling of playing in front of a big crowd that's pulling for you like? When it's late in the game and you pull off a big play that highly increases your chance of winning the game, and you have hundreds, maybe thousands of people, yelling and

screaming for you and supporting you and making it so loud for the other team to concentrate on a task that has already been made rigorous by your actions, it gives you a shot of adrenaline and gives you that crazy feeling where you think you can do anything.

If your home crowd is loud enough, it could throw off the opponent's game plan or state of mind.

This is what we refer to as "home field/home court advantage." If you go into an opponent's home court and there isn't a big crowd there, you get the feeling that the team isn't very good, and if you barely beat them, it feels like a sour win. If you don't have a big crowd pulling for you, then you get the whole feeling that your "fans" don't care much about your team, which always takes a bad shot to the pride.

The fans of sports have such a big impact on the games that their players play, and sometimes they don't realize it.

Matsuzaka starts the pre-season running

'103 Million Dollar Man' kicks game off with scoreless innings

By CARLOS OLIVERA
Contributing Reporter

The long-awaited debut of Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka turned out exactly how Red Sox Nation hoped. Although the start was unexpected and sort of frightening, it turned out all right for Red Sox faithful.

Matsuzaka faced seven Boston College hitters, throwing two innings and only 25 pitches. Matsuzaka's first career pitch in a BoSox uniform was a waist high 91 m.p.h. fastball that was ripped down the left field line for a double by junior Johnny Ayers.

Ayers was quoted before the game as saying, "I'm hoping just to have a quality at bat, make solid contact. I think that's the best-case scenario. I'm hoping to see a fast-

ball."

He got a fastball and made solid contact, as he had hoped, for a lead-off double. The entire Boston College Eagles team was on the top step of the dugout for the two innings Matsuzaka was in game. Although Matsuzaka's first pitch was hammered, he did settle down and went on to retire the next three batters in order to get out of the slight jam Ayers had put him in.

Matsuzaka went on to sit down the side in the second inning, allowing zero runs and that lone hit. He also struck out three of the seven batters he faced. After the game, Jason Varitek was quoted as saying, "He seems as poised as anybody and there's no sense of butterflies at all."

That's a big statement coming from one of the smartest and best game managers in baseball. Matsuzaka can't afford to have those butterflies show, especially when he faces actual big league hitters who can launch the ball distances exceeding 500 feet. Although Matsuzaka, or Dice-K as Fenway Faithful are referring to him, was

facing a college team instead of a professional team, he was impressive nonetheless. He threw 25 pitches, 19 of which were strikes.

Dice-K had command of his pitches, which he is known for. He was also consistently throwing in the low- to mid-90s with his fastest pitch being clocked at 94 miles an hour. Matsuzaka, however, was not all that impressed with his performance.

After the game, through an interpreter, he said, "I am not 100 percent satisfied with how I pitched, but, considering the time of the season, it's OK."

Red Sox fans everywhere have reason to believe that the "103 Million Dollar Man" will be worth every penny and will someday bring a World Series Championship to Boston as he did with his native country Japan last summer in the World Baseball Classic. His first scheduled appearance against Major League hitting is for Tuesday in Jupiter, Florida versus the 2003 World Series Champion Florida Marlins.

Matsuzaka's Minor League statistics
Japan-Pacific League

Year	Team	Games	W - L	ERA	IP	Hits	Runs	ER	HR	BB	SO
1999	Seibu	25	16-5	2.60	180.0	124	55	52	14	87	151
2000	Seibu	27	14-7	3.97	167.2	132	85	74	12	95	144
2001	Seibu	33	15-15	3.60	240.1	184	104	96	27	117	214
2002	Seibu	14	6-2	3.68	73.1	60	30	39	12	15	78
2003	Seibu	29	16-7	2.83	194.0	165	71	61	13	63	215
2004	Seibu	23	10-6	2.90	146.0	127	50	47	7	42	127
2005	Seibu	28	14-13	2.30	215.0	172	63	55	13	49	226
2006	Seibu	25	17-5	2.13	186.1	138	50	44	13	34	200
8-Year ML totals		204	108-60	2.95	1402.2	1102	508	459	112	502	1355

Weekly Sports Trivia
QUESTIONS:

- 1.) Name the first president of the WNBA.
- 2.) Who won the first WNBA championship?
- 3.) What infamous former NBA player coaches the Detroit Shock?
- 4.) Who was the first player to lead the WNBA in scoring and rebounding in the same season?
- 5.) Which WNBA team was the first to score at least 100 points in a game?

ANSWERS:
1.) Val Ackerman was the first president of the WNBA.
2.) The Houston Comets won the first WNBA championship, in 1997.
3.) Bill Laimbeer, former "Bad Boy" with the Detroit Pistons, coaches the Shock.
4.) Chamique Holdseclaw of the Washington Mystics led the WNBA in scoring (19.9 points per game) and rebounding (11.6) per game, in 2002.
5.) The Utah Starzz defeated the Los Angeles Sparks, 102-89, in 1997.

Photo Essay

Art students share their favorite works for Portfolio Day

The Art department held a Portfolio Day on Monday, March 5. Professors from Mass Art, the New Hampshire Institute of Art and Montserrat came to NECC to discuss student artwork and the possibility of admission to their institute. The walls in the third floor corridor of the Spurk building were adorned with paintings, sketches and photos by the students in the art department. Students were allowed to display their works for this event only. Immediately following the display, the art work had to be removed from the bulletin boards. Art students, including Pat Bitchell, Mike Gould, Ashley Conchieri and Petronila Rivera, were excited that they were allowed to share their work with the visiting professors as well as NECC students.



Ashley Conchieri stands by her display of paintings and sketches while holding her personal favorite piece.



Pat Bitchell holds a snowboard made with his own personal design.



Mike Gould stands proudly beside his artwork in the hope that it will catch the eye of visiting art professors.



Petronila Rivera finishes her display while she waits for the New Hampshire Institute of Art professors to arrive.